

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 EUR-08 /040 W

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P R 271500Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2056

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1642

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS RH ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GRENNAN SEES 50-50 CHANCE FOR SETTLEMENT

1. IN AN INTERESTING HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION AUG 26 AT RESIDENCE WITH DENNIS GRENNAN, FONMIN CALLAGHAN'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, HE SAID THERE IS 50-50 CHANCE THAT SMITH-ANC TALKS ON RHODESIA COULD RESULT IN SETTLEMENT WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS. MEANWHILE, HMG IS TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT IT OUGHT, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM WHAT IT SHOULD DO AT THIS JUNCTURE.

2. GRENNAN SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND CHONA TODAY, AUG 27. HE DEPARTS LUSAKA MORNING AUG 28 FOR LONDON AND WILL "NIP OVER TO IRELAND" TO BRIEF CALLAGHAN WHO TROUT FISHING THERE ON RESULTS HIS LUSAKA VISIT.

3. GRENNAN SAID IT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT IN HIS VIEW THAT SAG PM VORSTER PARTICIPATED IN VICTORIA FALLS MEETING. SAW THIS AS INDICATION OF VORSTER'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE HE COULD "EVENTUALLY DELIVER SMITH", OTHERWISE
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HE WOULD NOT HAVE INVESTED HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE.

IMPORTANT UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AT THIS READING, GRENNAN THOUGHT ARE MESSAGE SAG FM MULLER MAY HAVE TAKEN BACK TO VORSTER AFTER REMAINING ON AT VICTORIA FALLS TO CONSULT WITH KAUNDA, AND ANC, AND MESSAGE VORSTER WILL SEND TO SMITH.

4. MAJOR ROLE WHICH BRITISH HAVE PLAYED DURING THIS EXERCISE IS BEARING WITNESS FROM A REMOTE AND DISENGAGED POINT AT VICTORIA FALLS (REFERENCE TO PRESENCE THERE OF UK HICOM MILES). ALSO BRITISH ADMIT TO HAVING BLANKETED ANC WITH DUTCH UNCLE COUNSEL TO ASSUME AND MAINTAIN IMAGE OF COOL REASONABLENESS, AND TO SELL THIS IMAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA SO AS TO GET VORSTER ON ANC SIDE. GRENNAN FEELS THIS PROBABLY ACHIEVED EVEN YET SMITH STILL TRYING TO SPLIT ANC ON IMMUNITY ISSUE RELATED TO FOLLOW-ON TALKS IN RHODESIA. GRENNAN BELIEVES ANC MAY HAVE TO EASE UP A BIT FROM ITS HARD POSITION AGAINST PRETORIA AGREEMENT EVEN THOUGH THIS "AN OUTRAGEOUS DOCUMENT WHICH CHONA NEVER SHOULD HAVE SIGNED, NOR ANC ACCEPTED." HARD-LINERS CHIKEREMA AND SITHOLE CLAIM ANC NEVER REALLY ACCEPTED PRETORIA AGREEMENT.

5. AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS SMITH HAS DONE WRONG, IN GRENNAN'S OPINION, IS TO ATTEMPT TO DICTATE COMPOSITION OF ANC DELEGATION WHICH IN FACT HE HAS DONE BY EXCLUDING PEOPLE LIKE SITHOLE AND CHIKEREMA BY NOT GRANTING THEM IMMUNITY.

6. GRENNAN SAID HE LOOKING FORWARD TO ACCOMPANYING ARIEL INSTITUTE GROUP OF 12 TO VIRGINIA IN MID-SEPTEMBER FOR JOINT MEETING WITH JOHNS HOPKINS GROUP AND SEEING ASST SECY DAVIS AND DEPUTY ASST SECY MULCAHY AGAIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARBITRATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PEACE TALKS, VICTORIA FALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUSAKA01642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750296-1123
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750814/aaaaalrw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: GRENNAN SEES 50-50 CHANCE FOR SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA, SF, ANC, (SMITH, IAN), (VORSTER, BALTHAZER J), (KAUNDA, KENNETH), (GRENNAN, DENNIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006